SPORTS FLASHBACK: March Madness 1993: The day that Cal and freshman Jason Kidd upset mighty Duke. C1

The Mercury News
Sunday

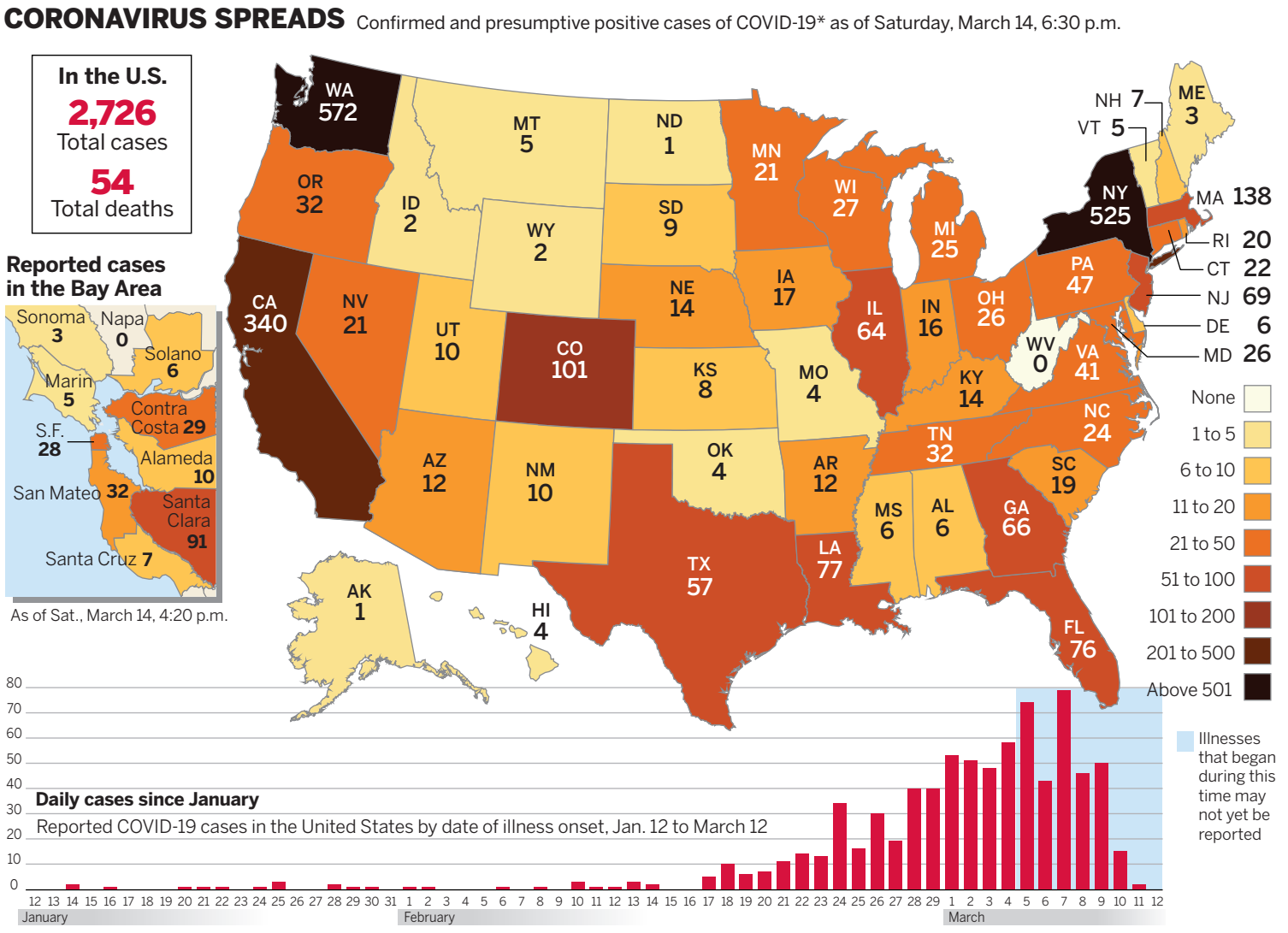
BayArea NewsGroup
24/7 COVERAGE: MERCURYNEWS.COM
$2.50 111 MARCH 15, 2020

Eat Drink Play: With spring comes salads; check out these new recipes from several high-profile chefs. F1

CORONAVIRUS

BAY AREA GRINDS TO A HALT

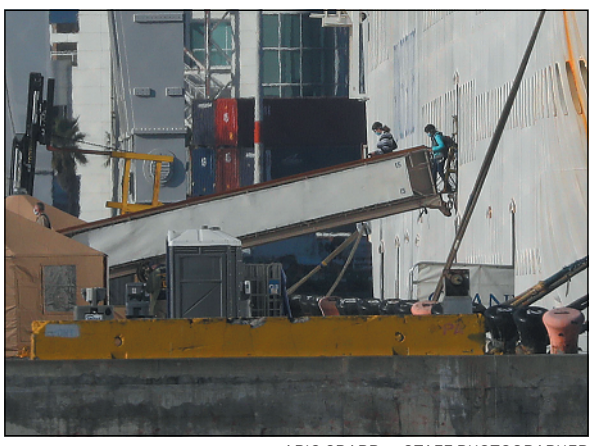
On the trail» Scientists are working to trace the virus' origin, changes and spread by analyzing the disease's genetic sequence



* Data include both confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 reported to CDC or tested at CDC since January 21, 2020, with the exception of testing results for persons repatriated to the United States from Wuhan, China, and Japan.

Sources: Johns Hopkins University, CDC

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP



ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Grand Princess passengers leave the virus-stricken cruise ship at a berth along Oakland's Outer Harbor on Tuesday.

By Lisa M. Krieger
lkrieger@bayareanewsgroup.com

Tracking tiny mutations in the novel coronavirus, Bay Area scientists are revealing how the deadly pathogen might have gained a foothold in California — and how it is now wreaking havoc across the region.

By comparing genomes, the team has discovered that the virus that spread through the Grand Princess cruise ship — responsible for cases of COVID-19 infection in multiple Bay Area counties — is almost identical to the virus found in Washington state, where 40 people have died.

This suggests, although doesn't prove, that the ship's virus may have been inadvertently introduced by a traveler from our neighbor to the north, said Dr. Charles Chiu, a professor of laboratory medicine at UC San Francisco, who directs the project.

The exact circumstances of this likely jump to the San Francisco-based ship from the Seattle area, where the virus was first detected, cannot be determined from the genetic data alone. The ship departed to Mexico on Feb. 11 and returned

VIRUS » PAGE 8

MORE COVERAGE

Trump: President has tested negative for the coronavirus, his doctor says. PAGE A4

Europe: Spain on lockdown; France closes Eiffel Tower, Louvre, cafes. PAGE A4

New reality » 'The world's a little upside down right now'

By Marisa Kendall, Leonardo Castañeda and Nico Savidge
Staff writers

As worried shoppers strip store shelves bare and nearly everything grinds to a halt amid fears of spreading coronavirus, Bay Area residents are bracing for what could be weeks of uncertainty and major disruption to their daily lives.

With schools, workplaces and other public places shutting down and governments banning large gatherings, people are doing their best to adjust and plan for their new restrictive reality. Crowds of shoppers lined up outside Bay Area stores Saturday morning and quickly picked shelves clean of frozen foods, meat, bread and toilet paper — a rush of stocking up that reflects the rising collective anxiety of a region that has been at the

STOPPED » PAGE 8

KARL MONDON — STAFF

Shelley Marquez waits with her 7-year-old twins, Charlie and Sophie, for the opening of the Costco store in South San Francisco on Saturday.

Education » As schools shut down, students face wide disparities in online learning

By Casey Tolan
ctolan@bayareanewsgroup.com

At Abraham Lincoln High School in San Jose, where classes will shut down for at least three weeks amid fear of the coronavirus outbreak, the time off might feel a little like an unplanned vacation. Students will receive no assignments or grades during the closure, and the public school has no plans to offer online classes, the principal said Friday.

A few miles away at Presentation High School, a private all-girls school, the doors also will shut for the immediate future — but teachers are taking all of their classes online. Students will be expected to virtually attend video classes using school-provided iPads, keeping their same schedule and completing all their assignments and tests online.

Even dance classes will continue in videochat.

TEACHING » PAGE 11

High school sports » Basketball teams grapple with state finals cancellation

By David DeBolt, Vytas Mazeika, Darren Sabedra and Evan Webeck
Staff reporters

On Thursday morning, the players' phones started buzzing.

Jason Roche had just finished his morning workout when his teammates at St. Mary's High of Berkeley began texting.

With the NBA postponing its season the night before, he had a sinking feeling about what the text message would say.

Facing concerns over the coronavirus outbreak, the California Interscholastic Federation had canceled the state basketball championship finals.

Roche and his teammates had figured they'd play the Division III championship game against Arroyo Grande in Sacramento in front of no fans, but canceling the whole tournament?

"Are they going to reschedule?" one teammate texted. "This is b.s.," another chimed in.

St. Mary's was one of six Bay Area teams scheduled to play Friday or Saturday at the Golden 1 Center, all with a shot at bringing home a state title.

Now, they're left to wonder how it would have ended.

"It doesn't seem real," Roche, 18, said hours after receiving the news. "I'm still trying to wrap my head around it."

The Archbishop Riordan Cru-

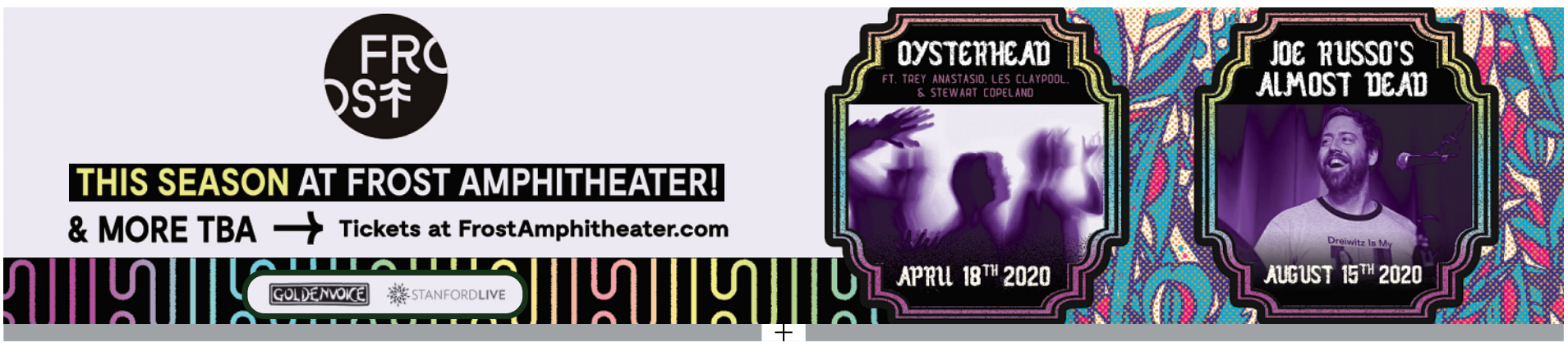
SPORTS » PAGE 12

RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Mary's High School basketball players listen as coach Rich Buckner speaks on the cancellation of the CIF state basketball championship.

NEWS ON THE GO
Download Bay Area News Digest from the app store for your iPhone.

INDEX
Business E1
Classifieds CA2
Local B1
Lottery A2
Movies B8
Obituaries B11
Puzzles B14
TV B16

WEATHER
H: 54-55 **L:** 42-44
Full report on B19

MediaNews Group
Subscribe: MercuryNews.com
©2019